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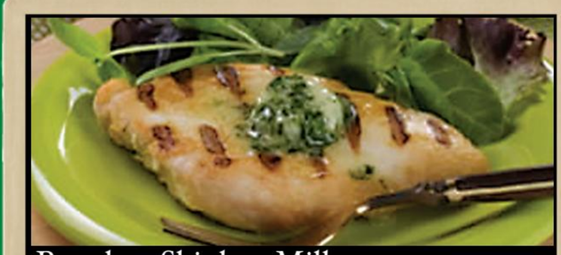

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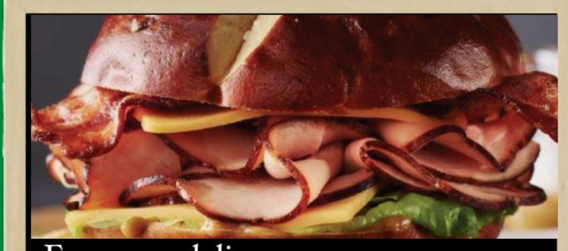

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FAA involved in near miss with semi by crop duster

BY STAN MADDUX

The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating a crop dusting plane coming practically within a razor's edge of a moving semi-truck in LaPorte County.

The near collision happened July 26 on U.S. 30 near Hanna.

A video shows the very low flying crop duster heading from a field toward an eastbound semi-truck then veering left around the front of the tractor trailer within a fraction of a second of a collision.

In response, the FAA is requesting help from the public in identifying the pilot and others engaged in such dangerous maneuvers.

"I was shocked. It was totally uncalled for," said David Eby, a former crop dusting pilot in describing how he felt when he first watched the video.

Eby owns Agriflite, a crop-dusting company he started in Wakarusa, Indiana, nearly 50 years ago.

He also served on the board for the National Agricultural Aviation Association.

Eby said the pilot should have gained enough altitude to fly well above oncoming traffic to reach the field on the other side of the four lane highway or executed some other proven safe maneuver for crossing the road.

In his opinion, he said the pilot decided to stay low to the ground and risk innocent lives just to save time.

"If he was flying for me I would have fired him that day as soon as I found out," he said.

Clifton Howard, 26, of North Judson recorded the video on his cell phone while traveling behind the semi-truck in the outside lane.

Howard said he began videotaping when the low flying crop duster was off in the distance above the field because he loves watching them fly and wanted something to show his friends especially the ones involved in farming.

Little did he know he would capture such a hair raising close call between the plane and tractor trailer roughly a minute later.

"I was more amazed than scared or shocked or anything. I'm like, wow, this guy's got some skills,"

Initially, Howard sent the video to his friends on Snap Chat then posted it on his Facebook page, which quickly started racking up clicks from viewers.

He then began receiving calls from various media outlets, including some from South Bend and Chicago.

"My phone just starts going berserk. My buddy, Jordan, texted me and said hey, man, you're going famous," he said.

Five days later, the video on his Facebook page had drawn about three million views, over 16,000 shares and more than 3,000 comments.

Eby said he's also upset with the pilot for placing a black eye on a risky by nature craft that can be done safely as long as there's planning done in advance and no risk taking by the pilot.

He said planning involves getting to know the terrain before taking off so there's no unexpected encounters with things like power lines.

He said years of effort to improve the image of crop dusting takes a blow every time a pilot acts more like a cowboy or maverick behind the controls.

"It makes the whole industry look bad," he said.

Eby also revealed he's been working with the FAA on its investigation and wouldn't be surprised if the pilot has his license to fly revoked.

"He violated a lot of laws, a lot of common sense laws," he said.

The pilot was not quickly identified because the registration numbers on the outside of the plane cannot been seen in the video.

Since 2013, at least 600 accidents involving crop dusting aircrafts have occurred in the U.S., according to the National Transportation Safety Board.

Happy is he who can trace effects to their causes. — *Virgil*

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

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JOHN HUMPHREY, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJESKI, JOHN HUMPHREY, BRIAN FLANAGAN, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
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PETE RAHM, MICHELLE HEIT, JUDY H. ZABICKI, PATTY IAZZETTO, JACK ROGERS
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
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L. Paul Bailey, Sheriff
Chuck Heit, Undersheriff
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CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
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DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, BILL MARSKE
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
MARY ROBERTSON, CLERK
HARRY WALDER BLAKE O'HALLORAN, JAMES BRACEWELL, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES

MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Former prosecutor calls settlement not his decision

BY STAN MADDUX

Former La Porte County Prosecutor John Lake is denying any wrongdoing even though a legal settlement has been reached with two former employees.

The legal action in U.S. District Court in South Bend was taken by Roseanne Miller and Natalie Miller, who alleged they were fired for political reasons when Lake took over as prosecutor in 2019.

Lake said the Indiana Attorney General's Office completely controlled the handling of the case and decided to settle "at the last minute without my involvement."

Lake said he wanted to go to trial

"I was kept in the dark pretty much over the course of the litigation and was not involved nor consulted on the lawsuit except as a witness," he said.

In Indiana, a county prosecutor is employed by the state.

As a result, the state will pay the damages since Lake is not being held personally responsible.

According to court documents, the case was scheduled for trial next week, but the settlement was reached two days ago in talking involving a judge presiding over the negotiations.

Formal settlement documents were ordered to be filed with the court on September 1.

The amount of the settlement was not disclosed.

Lake also criticized the handling of the case on his behalf, calling it a "complete embarrassment."

"I had 12 different deputy attorney generals that handled the case over the past three years, most with no experience," he said.

He also said the Indiana Attorney General's Office failed to contact or talk to the most important witnesses until less than 30 days from trial.

"I denied any wrongdoing and still do, but never got my day in court to prove it," he said.

Repairs to flooded county complex to resume

BY STAN MADDUX

Work on the repairing the heavily flood damaged LaPorte County Government Complex will resume.

The job was shut down five weeks ago to allow time for receiving bids on work added to the project after it began in January.

The work involves replacing old water pipes and other existing infrastructure such as duct work in the half century old building

In most cases, the bids opened during Wednesday's LaPorte County Commissioners were substantially higher than the original estimates from several months ago.

LaPorte County Commissioner Connie Gramarossa said there's no way out from paying the higher cost.

"We can't go back and ask them to hold the prices before we send it out to bid so now it is going to cost the taxpayers a lot more money," she said.

The commissioners later approved the bids.

The items added to the project were not directly damaged from a water line bursting late last year.

However, officials said those items should be replaced since they're exposed after the water damaged inside walls being taken down.

The cost of that work would be much higher if performed after the new walls go up, officials said.

The bids were close to a million dollars or more higher than originally estimated, but delaying the project further to receive new bids was considered out of the question with the project five weeks behind schedule.

LaPorte County Council Attorney Guy DiMartino said it's possible the actual expense of the new work once finished will be less than the estimates, which he believes were not to exceed amounts.

"Your job is going to be on the project manager to whip these people into shape, make sure they're not lollygagging and, hopefully, their times and materials are going to come in way under what they submitted their bid for," he said.

So far, the actual cost of all of the repairs once completed possibly by the end of the year remains unknown but previous rough estimates were as much as $20 million.

LaPorte County Commissioner Joe Haney said it's difficult to estimate the final cost because flood damage continues to be discovered even late in the ongoing demolition happening on the inside.

An insurance policy is covering a vast majority of the cost.

DiMartino said the work added to the project is not flood related but is hopeful much of that expense will also be picked up by the insurance company.

The water line was on the upper level of the five story structure busted when temperatures plummeted to below zero during a blizzard before Christmas.

Enough water leaked from the line to cause damage on every floor of the structure except the county jail.

Rest satisfied with doing well, and leave others to talk of you as they will.
— Pythagoras

Singers to lead 'Songs of the '60s and '70s' sing-along

Travel back to the '60s and '70s, singing those songs at a summer outdoor sing-along with the Harbor Country Singers at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 8, on Spring Creek Stage, Arts and Education Center, 14 Maple Street in Three Oaks (facing Dewey Cannon Park).

Song books with music and lyrics will be provided. Musicians are welcome to bring instruments to play along. Please bring your own lawn chair or blanket. If it rains, the sing-along will be moved to the shelter house at Carver Memorial Park, U. S. 12 and Elm Street, in Three Oaks.

School of American Music instructor Ron Spears will provide guitar accompaniment. Harbor Country Singers members Donna Mitchell, Diane Ruzevich and Pat Putnam will be song leaders.

Harbor Country Singers is a program of the School of American Music (SAM) and is supported by a grant from the Pokagon Fund.

For more information, please contact SAM at 269-409-1191 or schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com or visit School of American Music on Facebook or the website www.schoolofamericanmusic.com. – STAFF REPORTS

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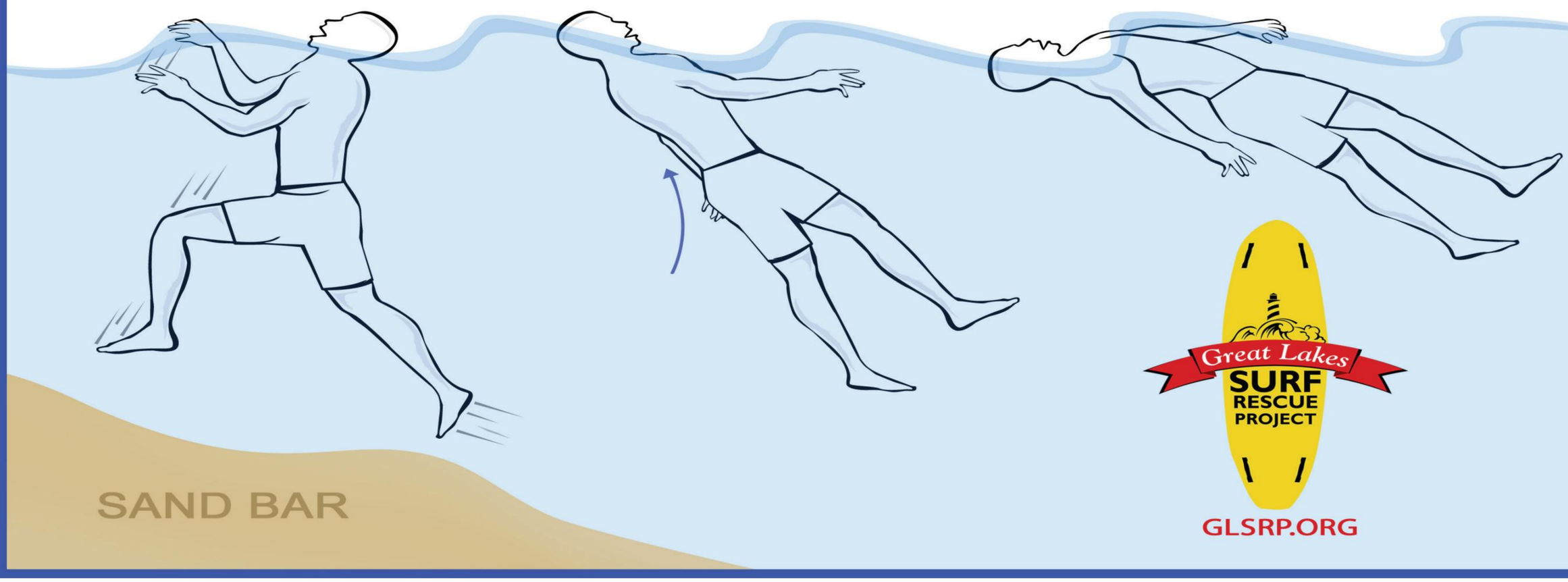

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Chicago-based band "Bowmanville" brings its energetic performance to Acorn Theater in Three Oaks on Aug. 18

August 5, 2023 – StoneagleMusic recording artists, Bowmanville, a Chicago-based band known for their electrifying live performances, is set to captivate music lovers at the prestigious Acorn Theater in Three Oaks, Michigan. The much-anticipated event will take place at 8:00 PM Eastern on August 18, 2023, promising an unforgettable night of remarkable music and entertainment.

Hailing from Chicago, Bowmanville strives to bring the hip sensibilities of Hot Club Jazz from 1930s Paris mingled with the influences born of Chicago's global crossroads to a wider audience. Led by violinist Ethan Adelsman, with Graham Nelson on harmonica/vocals, Noah Plotkin on drums, Oliver Horton on bass, and Mason Jiller on guitar, the group draws inspiration from diverse musical backgrounds to push the boundaries of their craft.

The band can be heard on their debut self-titled album, which was produced by Grammy nominated producer Doug Nelson (Donovan, Little Feat, Pinetop Perkins) and engineered by Larry Millas (Ides of March). Newcity Music called the album "a burst of pure joy" and writes that the group has the "ability to swing the living hell out of whatever they do".

Thrilling audiences the world over, Bowmanville can be seen regularly at venues such as Space, Andy's Jazz Club, the Whistler, Chicago Jazz Festival, Fitzgerald's, the Acorn Theater, and has performed internationally at the Live at Heart festival in Örebro, Sweden.

Band spokesperson, Ethan Adelsman, expressed his excitement for the upcoming event, saying, "We're thrilled to bring our music to the Acorn Theater in Three Oaks, Michigan. It's always a joy to perform for our fans in new locations, and we cannot wait to share this unforgettable experience with the audience." "It is also the first time playing the Acorn for local son Graham Nelson, who's family lives and works in the area. — NEW BUFFALO TIMES INTELLIGENCE

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Dead bats wash up on Lake Michigan shoreline

BY STAN MADDUX

There were still dead bats along the Lake Michigan shoreline Monday, July 31, roughly 48 hours after they started being discovered in large numbers by beachgoers in the Michigan City area.

"They're still up and down the beach," said Maggie Power, 34, whose family has a summer home at the lakefront in Long Beach.

Power said it was Saturday when she spotted about 30 bats washed up on the sand and floating at the water's edge during a two mile walk with her children toward Michigan City.

If the site wasn't nerve wracking enough for her, the full-time Chicago resident said a few dead bats floated near her while she was swimming Sunday at the municipal beach just a short walk from her second residence.

"I've never seen anything like this," said Power, who has been going to the home every summer for all of her life.

Anthony Povlock, 26, of Trail Creek said he was at Washington Park Beach in Michigan City on Saturday for about one hour before hearing someone reveal finding a bat.

Povlock said he got up and while walking around discovered at least a dozen of them within about a 25 foot radius of where he and his friends had gathered.

"It was quite strange. It's not every day that you see dead bats on the beach you know," he said.

Other people along that several mile stretch of shoreline reported finding dead bats sometimes laying in groups.

So far, no estimates have been given on how many dead bats washed in from the lake.

New Buffalo City Manager Darwin Watson said there were no dead bats discovered at the municipal beach.

Indiana Department of Natural Resources spokesman Marty Benson said the bats were probably migrating over the lake when caught in the late Friday night and early Saturday morning storms that contained heavy rain, high winds and hail.

He said they were likely eastern red bats, which are migratory.

"They tend to migrate in groups and, unfortunately, when they encounter storms like we had this weekend large numbers of bats can be affected," he said.

Benson also said DNR is working to collect more information about the event.

According to DNR, anyone finding a dead bat along the shoreline or anywhere else should not physically handle it.

Instead, such discoveries should be reported to DNR at on.in.gov/sickwildlife and a DNR biologist will reach out to individuals if more information is needed.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, bats are the leading cause of rabies deaths in people in the United States.

LaPorte County Health Department Administrator Amanda Lahners said a bat carrying rabies can transmit the disease from a bite or if they're body fluids come into contact with the open sore on a human or animal.

However, Lahners said the risk of contracting rabies from a dead bat is much lower, though.

She said the virus usually dies within 24 hours after the death of an infected bat or animal.

"If it's hotter it can be less than that. If it's cold or freezing it can last a little bit longer," she said.

Power said she's also upset no effort appears to have been made by local officials to inform residents about the bats and there's been, so far, no clean up.

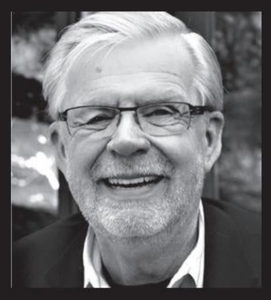
Michigan City Park Department Superintendent Ed Shinn said any clean-up would likely have to be ordered by DNR since the state owns the narrow strip of land from the water's edge to the high water mark.

In general, he said the high water mark is roughly where vegetation is growing about 100 feet or so away from the edge of the water.

"It varies along the shoreline and it varies from day to day," he said.

SPORTS

From the Bleachers



COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

The excitement is building for the Chicago Bears and their fans.

Opening day against the Packers is less than six weeks away and all the new Bears have to mesh with the Bears of last year. The Bears couldn't possibly be as bad as they were last year and just may be good enough to be a playoff team.

Personally, I'm a big fan of Justin Fields, and I'm expecting him to improve, as a passer, by leaps and bounds this season. He's already a terrific runner and seems to be growing into the the leadership role. If the line gives him more time and the receivers are as good as advertised, the sky's the limit.

Every August I'm excited about the upcoming NFL season and this year the excitement is even greater than usual. I truly believe that the Bears are at the beginning stages of sustained success. The next Super Bowl or two may be on the horizon. September 10th can't come soon enough.

Baseball in Chicago is not over yet. The White Sox season, for all intents and purposes, has come to an end, but they are being aggressive by making trades for the future. The Sox have traded two of their best three starting pitchers and two of their top three relievers, and I don't think they're done yet.

The team that they put together to win multiple championships never gelled. The talent always seemed to be there but they just couldn't put things together. Questionable decisions by management, key injuries, and an inability to make clutch plays derailed their championship expectations but hopefully the new wave of youngsters will get them back on the right track.

Last week, the Cubs seemed like they were on their way to throwing in the towel on the season like the Sox, but an amazing thing happened. They beat the Sox twice and won six out of eight against the Cardinals to pull within four games of first and three and a half games of a wildcard berth.

They hit well, pitched beautifully, fielded magically, ran the bases with abandon, hustled, and made clutch plays time and again. In short, they played like a championship team.

The Cubs just told the teams that were pursuing Cody Bellinger that he was no longer available. They changed course and are now looking to add to their major league roster rather than adding more youngsters.

The Cubs front office decided to reward the players who are currently playing so well by going for the playoffs now rather than aiming for the future. In a perfect universe, that's the way things should always work. The Cubs are far from a perfect team, but if they get into the playoffs, anything is possible.

Colin R. Davis said, "The road to success and the road to failure are almost exactly the same."

What's blue and not very heavy?... light blue!!!

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

The secret of success is constancy to purpose.
— Benjamin Disraeli

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Guests have grand old time at Michiana Humane Society's 'Grand Cottage' event

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Every year, it seems as though Will Schauble and Jason Spohn order up the weather to be just right for Cocktails at the Grand Cottage, the signature fundraiser for Michiana Humane Society (MHS).

"They pull it off every year – I don't know how they do it," Johanna Humbert, executive director at MHS, said at the 12th annual event, which took place under clear blue skies at the home of Schuable and Spohn Saturday, July 26.

Beverly Hammel, president of the MHS Board of Directors, thanked them for opening up their sweeping Marquette Drive home in New Buffalo year after year.

"Their dedication and contributions have forever changed the path of Michiana Humane Society - Will and Jason, your gratitude knows no bounds," she said.

As of that night, Hammel said the event had raised $1,475,000.

That night's event raised just over $344,000.

A large percentage of proceeds from that night went towards MHS' operating expenses for the year ahead Hammel said.

"MHS does not receive outside funding from any government agency or from tax dollars – our animals and our staff depend solely upon your donations...We're deeply grateful of your continued support of our mission, without these dollars, we would not be able to succeed at our work," she said.

The "Fund A Paws" portion of the evening, during which guests could make a direct donation to the shelter, raised $58,000+ toward getting equipment for the new veterinarian who's soon joining MHS.

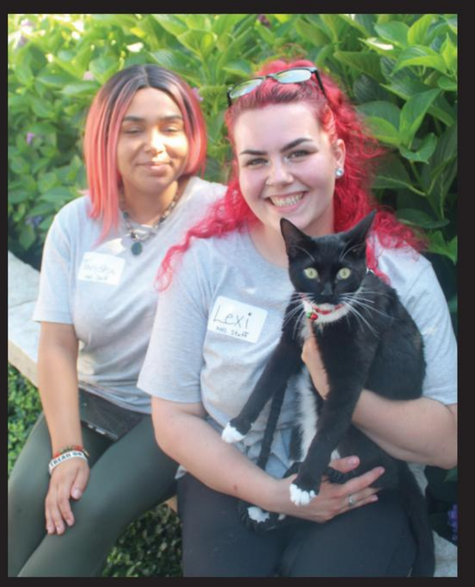
Humbert said that, currently, there's a shortage of veterinarians in the world due to the "big boost" in the pet population during the pandemic – and a "whole lot of these people are making appointments to take their pets to the

Allanna McGuffey and Karen Haasen pose with Cletus and Clyde

Guests mix and mingle at the Grand Cottage

Allison Goldberg talks up an auction item, a stay at her place in Telluride, Colorado

Johanna Humbert (center) talks during Fund A Paws while Stacy Hirschy (left) and David Meyers look on



Tanisha Hill and Lexi Smith pose with Biscuit

Guests take in lakeside views of the Grand Cottage

David Meyers and Stacy Hirsch of Scheerer Mcculloch Auctioneers lead the auction

Guests check out the cats that are up for adoption

Donna Solerno, Jamie Campbell and Sandy Sporleder

Beverly Hammel speaks before the live auction

Gary Allen with Kirk Amptmeyer

Nanette and Gary Larson enjoy lakeside views

vet now."

MHS doesn't currently have a veterinarian and needs to make appointments at the local veterinarian's to get them care, which has been "really straining our budget and making our animals stay in the shelter longer than necessary" while they try to make appointments to get them spayed and neutered, Humbert said.

There's a solution, though: Thanks to the Bonnie Benson (a former president of the MHS Board) Fund at the Berrien Community Foundation, MHS has been granted the money to have part time veterinarian join its staff beginning the end of August for two days a week.

"She will look after shelter animals and take care of our spays and neuters in house so that if an animal arrives by Monday and they're basically healthy by Friday, they're getting adopted - they don't have to wait," she said.

Humbert said they need equipment to accommodate the veterinarian who's coming aboard: a dental machine and wet table (many animals need dental work, Humbert said) and an ultrasound.

All these items are needed so that, when the veterinarian comes in, she "can get to work and take better care of these animals than we have before," Humbert said.

The evening included a live auction, during which guests could bid on the following items: a $500 gift card to Miru; greens fee for four at the Dunes Club in New Buffalo; four Cubs tickets, parking, and dinner for four at Smoke Daddy's; dog training sessions from canine etiquette; a week stay for up to eight at Ocean Reef Club in Key Largo, Florida; four Notre Dame football tickets with food, drinks, and parking; lobster roll luncheon pool party for up to 12 in Union Pier; a week stay for up to eight at "The Big Chill," a Luxury Mountain Home in Telluride, Colorado; a week stay for up to eight in a private country home in Troncones, Mexico; pasta making class and dinner for 10 at Terrace Room in New Buffalo and cruise ride on Lake Michigan aboard a new 40-foot Sea Ray from Oselka Marina.

For more on MHS and pets available for adoption, visit www.michianapets.org.

Craft of "Downton Abbey" and "Gilded Age" Director, Michael Engler

BY ALEXANDER FATOUROS

American television and film director Michael Engler is extraordinarily skilled at both comedies and dramas. Before earning Emmy nominations for "Sex and the City" (HBO), "30 Rock (NBC), and "Downton Abbey" (PBS), Engler directed for the stage.

It is no surprise that the native of Evanston, Illinois is comfortable expressing ideas imaginatively. As an acting student at NYU Tisch School of the Arts, the renowned filmmaker and executive producer found himself enraptured by the concept of directing.

In late June, Engler and I met on a sunny morning at Think Coffee on the Bowery at the corner of Bleecker Street in downtown Manhattan to talk about craftsmanship and what he's learned collaborating with "Downton" and "Gilded Age" creator Julian Fellowes.

What's more, the Yale School of Drama graduate tells The Theatre Times about what it was like working with fellow director, Salli Richardson-Whitfield on HBO's period drama "The Gilded Age."

"When I was at NYU, I was studying acting and that's what I came to New York to do and I decided that I was only going to study someplace that I got in in New York. So I came to New York and was exposed to lots of theatre. And while I was there and I loved it and had some great teachers, people started saying to me: 'You should be a director!' 'you should be a director!' and I was mostly hurt by that because I interpreted that as 'you'll never be an actor' or 'you're in your head or whatever.' A friend of mine who was in my program and was an actor wrote his first play and said: 'Would you direct this?' And I said 'okay' and I kind of immediately felt that all of my interests in acting weren't negated by that and all my other interests in architecture, art history, even my kind of my math brain worked well with staging and stuff and so it was really like one of those aha moments where the switch was flipped and I was like 'oh I get it; I get it!' I get why they all say that and from then on I just wanted to. So I finished my degree in acting," explains Engler.

As to shooting and directing, Engler addresses the captivating appeal of the performing arts as a mode through which to explore craftsmanship.

"I value craft so highly. I really do and I think the performance part of it for me is finding the exact style for a piece, which means the exact balance between style and realism. I think a lot of people think of those or talk about those two things like they are in opposition and in a way they are. But I think mostly they heighten each other when crafted carefully. That when you are doing something in a period or a style the more real it feels the more convincing I think it is. You start to think 'oh, oh right' and you start to relate to it more. And I think sometimes the more you can heighten some reality in a particular style. The more universal it can become. It's not less real. It's just selected aspects of reality. And so, for me, it's really just about learning about people and psychology and how to move that forward you know? In life, In performance, and how to use that to serve to create a believable world. So craft can be everything from understanding how people move. What they were taught. What they were wearing. What they knew. What they didn't know. And then just the things we all know about people or learn about people about what drives them and how are they making choices moment to moment."

With a genuine appreciation of the fine arts, Engler touches on the creative process, spotlighting the difference surrounding big-screen cinema and the episodic format.

"Well, the thing is in the episodic format you are dealing with storylines that are being outlined over time. And then you are also dealing with scripts that are coming in one at a time. And so, you need to be thinking along the story questions because you know that if you don't in some way lay the groundwork for the things that are coming up they can seem like they come out of nowhere when they do. And so, we talk a lot about whether are we setting things up enough. Are we laying it in too much. That it is going to be not a surprise when it gets there? So, we talk a lot about those things. And then we also talk a lot about, especially with these period pieces, the production and the pre-production element. It takes so long just to plan and build the sets or the costumes for a big event takes months and months and months so even if the script isn't written, we need to know some of the basic outlines so we can start planning the physical production of what's coming up before we have a script for it. So the big opening at the Metropolitan Opera in 1883 in New York is a thing in season two and that's in the final episode and so we needed to figure out a way where we could get there by the end and be ready for this enormous thing. But also, we said along the way 'Are we going to need to see it being built?' A lot of those very practical things and creative decisions are the moment-by-moment being figured out while the long-term skeleton of things is being figured out because there are certain things we need to know in advance and certain things we don't need to know. Those costumes each one of them takes eight to ten weeks from its first fitting really. So nothing can happen at the last minute," said Engler.

Louisa Jacobson on the set of HBO's *The Gilded Age* during COVID. PHOTO BY MICHAEL ENGLER

Julian Fellowes, the Academy Award winner for best original screenplay, Gosford Park, and Michael Engler on the set of *The Chaperone*

Carrie Coon and Donna Murphy in T*he Gilded Age*. PHOTO COURTESY HBO

Distinguished by a unique ability to bring a moment of American or British history to life in motion pictures, Engler speaks of the new tools that he is using including Computer-Generated Imagery (CGI) and what he has learned.

"Well definitely the visual effects—the CGI technology is enormous and we couldn't do any of what we do without it. Part of what we want to do is get inside the intimacy of the world, but also show the scale of New York in the 1880s for instance, or London in the 1920s. And so what I've learned mostly is how to take what exists and build on it. Because creating from scratch is a thing we can do; we have a back lot that is built from scratch. But most of what we do is take elements or buildings or streets that exist and then shoot them in such a way so that later we change all the parts of it that aren't correct to the period and add or subtract. And so what I would say I am learning is what's worth it. How much work it takes? How much money does it take? And in terms of the effects when it's worth it and when it's just spinning wheels to make something big. I think too much can make it less convincing actually. Like if you examine it too carefully for too long you'll start to notice the artificiality of it compared to what's real on screen. And so you have to find the right rhythm when you are using authentic things versus when you're making things up so that the blend between the two seems more seamless."

Louisa Jacobson and Denée Benton in *The Gilded Age*. The historical drama won a Primetime Creative Arts Emmy Award in 2022. PHOTO COURTESY HBO

Matthew Goode and Allen Leech on the set of the *Downton Abbey* film. PHOTO BY MICHAEL ENGLER

Michael Engler and Steve Sumser at the London premiere of the film, *Downton Abbey*

In the context of feature films for the big screen, Engler directed Fellowes' 2018 "The Chaperone" and 2019 "Downton Abbey" starring Elizabeth McGovern, Michelle Dockery, Jim Carter, Hugh Bonneville, and Dame Maggie Smith.

Although stylistically different, "Downton Abbey" and "The Gilded Age" appeal to a very wide range of demographics. Each work of art communicates its message against the background of social and intellectual forces that bring about growth and change. The scenes of high-society costume balls are especially effective because of the way Engler stages them.

Engler references a class and grace that resonates in one's demeanor highlighting not only Julian Fellowes' keen insight into humanity but also the social relevance evident in entertainment.

"One of the things he is interested in is the relationship between people in their time the position they were born into or find themselves in for various reasons how whatever the limitations are of that moment in time and that position. Whatever those limitations are for being black, a woman, poor, rich. Whatever opportunities it gives you are specific to that position. Whatever obstacles it has are specific to that time and place and position. To him, I think character has nothing to do with where you are born into that power structure. It has everything with how you deal with that at that moment. So people at the highest level can have absolutely no character and people at the lowest level can have absolute character. And vice versa and everything in between along the way and it's how you take where you are and build a meaningful life of whatever success is to you based on your own values your own character is what defines you."

He continued, adding, "You know the honor of Downton Abbey means as much to Lord Robert Crawley as it does to the head butler. One runs the upstairs, the other downstairs. Each of them is equally invested. And for them, their definition of their own success is bringing honor to the house in every way that they can. And so they're partners in that. He doesn't judge one or the other as more honorable."

Engler exchanges views on what it was like working with fellow director, Salli Richardson-Whitfield in HBO's "The Gilded Age." The acclaimed TV series stars Denée Benton, Carrie Coon, Louisa Jacobson, Cynthia Nixon, Morgan Spector, and Christine Baranski as aristocrat Agnes van Rhijn who reigns over an established order.

"Well, it was fantastic working with Salli. I adore her. She is a completely original director with her own voice. She comes from a long successful career in acting and got into directing from television and film acting. And so, I think that her background and as an African-American woman, her interests brought so much balance to how we told the stories of the black and white worlds intersecting. And what the reality of that would have been. She heightened that a lot. She brought a lot of specificity to it. As well as bringing real life and breath and reality to the world of African-Americans of the upper middle class of the period," said Engler.

He continued, adding, "People said 'Oh is she there to you know oversee the African-American stuff?' But I have to say that her insights into the world of white people were as unique and special because she wasn't from that you know? And so that's the thing about bringing in new voices—they don't just bring insight into their world; they bring insight into your world because they are not part of that. And you know that I feel the same way because people said to me 'How was it being on set on 'Downton Abbey?' Did they accept you as the only American director to work on that? And I was so worried about that at first and then instantly it felt like they embraced me and not just because they are open-minded people, which they are but because I discovered that I was bringing something to it coming from the outside. I didn't have all the same assumptions about growing up in that English system. So I think there were times when I would say for sure Salli just kind of reminded us 'Oh here's another way of looking at what that might have been like if you weren't in you know the majority society back then."

With a unique focus on the performing arts, Michael Engler stands acknowledged as one of the world's most talented directors.

This article was originally published in The Theatre Times *on August 28, 2023, and has been printed in* New Buffalo Times *with permission. To read the full interview by Alexander Fatouros drop by www.thetheatretimes.com/craft-of-downton-abbey-and-gilded-age-director-michael-engler.*

Region of Three Oaks Museum welcomes home large artifacts

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

To prepare for the almost ready, expansive storage space at the Region of Three Oaks Museum (TROTOM), members of the museum board moved in some large artifacts that have recently been re-gifted to the museum: an elegant horse drawn carriage and a hearse with hand-carved ornamentation and a mirror.

The items were part of the collection of the Chamberlain-Warren Museum that was located in Three Oaks from 1916-1952 and have been stored underneath the Spartan Stadium at Michigan State University since the museum's closure. Now, they'll be housed in the 1440 square foot addition to the museum's current storage facilities that's nearing completion.

When the original museum dissolved, the 80,000 items in its collection were transferred to the Michigan State University Museum, with some large items going into storage under the stadium's stands. Stadium officials are now reclaiming that space and some large items originally from Three Oaks will be returning to TROTOM.

This is what occurred Friday, July 28, when museum volunteers drove up to East Lansing to bring the items home.

With the shell of the new addition now complete, the large items can be stored securely while construction crews from Oatsvall Construction finish their work on the $104,000 addition, which they've been working on since May.

Regarding the expansion, Nick Bogert, museum board member, said the interior walls are now up and the ceilings are up. Shelving will hopefully be installed late this month.

Items from the attic of the Three Oaks Township Library, where the museum was originally located, will need to be moved in as well.

The items were part of the collection of the Chamberlain-Warren Museum that was located in Three Oaks from 1916-1952 and have been stored underneath the Spartan Stadium at Michigan State University since the museum's closure. Now, they'll be housed in the 1440 square foot addition to the museum's current storage facilities that's nearing completion.

Bogert said they don't have many details about the items yet and have asked MSU to send any information they have that's available.

"You can figure by approximate age of this (the hearse), we'd know what undertakers did business in Three Oaks during that time period," he said.

He said that, since people were beginning to get cars during the early 1900s, his assumption is that both the carriage and hearse are from the 19th century.

Small details can reveal big clues as to the items' history – such as with the carriage, board member Randy Miller said.

"We're going to see if there's a nameplate on it because usually when there's carriage maker, lots of times they put a nameplate on it that they made it and since the Vickers's (Theater, in Three Oaks) was a carriage maker way back when, the possibility also exists it may have been made there," he said.

The carriage is back home in Three Oaks

Museum volunteers position the mirror in the new storage addition

The hearse arrives in Three Oaks

HOROSCOPE

AUGUST 3-9, 2023

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

You will be on a definite path of independence this week. It is important you receive the freedom to do what you want when you want to do it, if not you will be sure to put others in their place. Try to avoid confrontation by being completely honest about your needs and desires. Go and conquer.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

It will be much easier for you to stand up for yourself this week and your ability to speak your mind will accomplish many things. You will be feeling more resourceful and this in turn will help you be more outspoken giving you the opportunity to display your talents and prove you are a strong force.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

Be more optimistic and embrace the possibility that others can and will help you. Part of you is unwilling to give and you fear certain relationships will open up some inner wounds you have not wanted to deal with. Embrace who you are fully and when you open up, others will be there to support.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

The energy around you is speeding up and you will be feeling the need for adventure and excitement. You are brave by nature and have no fear of the unknown. This week you will find yourself taking chances and making huge strides forward. Guard against rebelling and acting reckless.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

This week it will be easy for you to see what affects you personally and what doesn't need your concern. You are looking for a deeper quality of life and will not tolerate surface skimmers. You are ready to take things to the next level and don't need to carry anyone else or fake your emotions.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

Making direct contact with others proves to be the best and the most rewarding solution. Don't rely on anyone else to carry your messages or make your point. Be bold and frank when telling people how you feel. Don't let your self-consciousness get in the way of making stronger connections.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

Your satisfaction is stimulated because you are being more open about your feelings. Normally you try to avoid how you feel and are not willing to uncover your inner motives but something this week will motivate you to get to the heart of the ideas and feelings you have. Go easy on yourself.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

You are moving into a time of empowerment and will have a definite increase in the awareness of others and their inner motives. This will help you sort out your true confidants and who is just there for show. Use this knowledge to put together a winning team and further your finances.

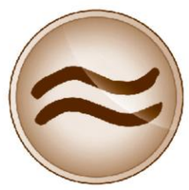
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

Feelings of isolation meet feelings of passion and increased sex appeal. You want harmony and fulfillment but fear restrictions and expectations. Advice: live in the moment, let dinner equal dinner, not a lifetime. Take each experience as it comes and don't jump to conclusions.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

Do your best to use your intellect rather than your emotions when responding to others. This may be difficult because you have the ability to see the cruel edge of people and situations. Avoid ultimatums when in combat with stubborn issues and people. Respond with the head not the heart.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



Expect some sudden changes on the home-front this week. Know that the pot is being stirred and some issues form the past may resurface. The truth may be that you are dissatisfied with your residence or chosen roommate. A tumultuous week ahead and many unforeseen events surface.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

Embrace the feeling of increased inner motivation this week. You will start to see your personal ambition in a better light and come to understand the value of your work and contribution to society. Release the past and any mistakes you think you may have made. Embrace new opportunities.

Incentives change everything.
— Dino N. Fatouros

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

	3					7		1
		1				5		
		7		4	5			
		5	4		1			
		4	5	9	6			
							9	
4				5	2	1		3
2			3					6
		9		1				

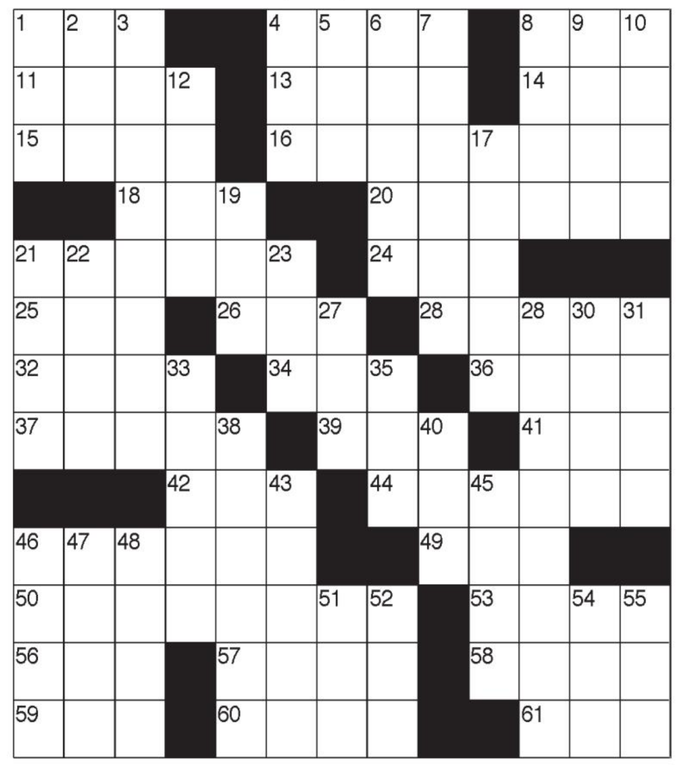
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Civilian Conservation Corps (abbr.)
4 Bean cheese
8 Label
11 Glass (pref.)
13 Twist
14 River (Sp.)
15 Zulu warriors
16 Sneaking
18 Retail liquor dealer (abbr.)
20 Measuring instruments
21 Without a country
24 Fortunate (India)
25 Receipt (abbr.)
26 Disseminate
28 Arrange as hangings
32 Occipital protuberances
34 Federal Bureau of Investigation (abbr.)
36 Ancient Gr. city
37 River into the Rhone
39 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (abbr.)
41 Illicit drug
42 Compass direction
44 New York river
46 Characteristics
49 Grand Old Party (abbr.)
50 Backward
53 Become insignificant
56 Civil Aeronautics Admin. (abbr.)
57 Airplane
58 Pounds per sq. inch, diff. (abbr.)
59 Soviet Socialist Republic (abbr.)
60 Attention getting sound
61 Spring

DOWN

1 22nd Greek letter
2 Cymric (abbr.)
3 Strauss opera
4 Township (abbr.)
5 Propel
6 Jumping amphibians
7 Up
8 School course (abbr.)
9 Senior (Fr.)
10 Swamps
12 Bagpipe hole
17 Shrine (Fr.)
19 Some (Fr.)
21 Sister of Ares
22 Ohio city
23 Defense (abbr.)
27 Boxing org.
29 Cenis (2 words)
30 ____ Rivera, CA
31 Television channel
33 Girl's name
35 Legendary Celt
38 Noose
40 Reek
43 Colorado park
45 Cup to hold a gem
46 Muscular spasms
47 Royal Naval Air Service (abbr.)
48 Caucasian language
51 Hesitation sounds
52 Iota
54 Edge of crater
55 Girl's name



OBITUARIES

Julie K. DeRuiter
1957-2023

Julie K. DeRuiter, 65, of Three Oaks, died Wednesday, July 26, 2023.

Her life began October 8, 1957 in St. Joseph, Michigan, one of eight children born to Emil and Anne Krumrie. She married Don R. DeRuiter July 6, 1984 just outside the Village of Three Oaks.

Julie loved her animals, especially her dogs. She cherished her nieces and nephews immensely. She was a hard worker and had worked her entire life.

Julie will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by her husband of thirty-nine years, Donald DeRuiter of Three Oaks; sisters, Linda Olson of Sawyer, Kathy Williams of Galien, Carol Woods of Chikaming Township, Lisa (Doug) Weaver of Chikaming Township; brothers, Eddie (Norma) Krumrie of Chikaming Township; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her brothers, Ray Krumrie and Rex Krumrie.

Family and friends gathered Wednesday, August 2, 2023, from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, 106 Ash Street East, Three Oaks. A funeral service will be held Thursday, August 3, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the funeral home.

Julie will be laid to rest in Riverside Cemetery, Chikaming Township.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at www.wagnercares.com.

James Ignatius McCafferty
1935-2023

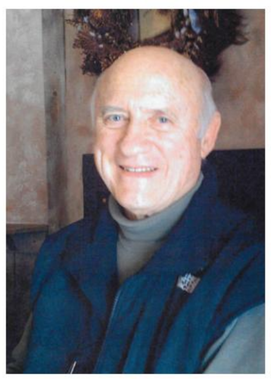
James Ignatius McCafferty, 87, of New Buffalo, passed away on Thursday, July 20, 2023 at his home in New Buffalo.

A funeral Mass will be held at 10:00am, Saturday, August 5, 2023 at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, 12601 Shaker Blvd., Cleveland, OH. Inurnment will be at Holy Cross Cemetery, Cleveland, OH. Memorial contributions may be given to the New Buffalo Public Library, 33 N. Thompson St., New Buffalo, MI 49117. Those wishing to leave an online condolence for the family may do so at www.sommerfeldchapel.com.

Jim was born November 5, 1935 in Cleveland, OH to Patrick and Helen (Gill) McCafferty, the youngest of 10 children. He lived his early life in Cleveland, graduating from St. Ignatius High School in 1953. He went on to graduate from Case Institute of Technology in 1957 with an engineering degree. At Purdue University in 1992, he earned his MBA and finally received his law degree from Valparaiso School of Law in 1999. Jim worked for Bethlehem and U.S. Steel for many years until he decided that he wanted to be a lawyer. At the age of 64, he finished law school and passed the bar. He practiced family law in the state of Indiana until his second retirement.

Jim is survived by his wife, Anne (Horrigan) McCafferty; his children, James McCafferty of Texas, Neil (Carolyn Natale) McCafferty of Massachusetts, and Mary (Scott) Seegers of Connecticut; his grandchildren, Patrick, Jack, Louis, Sean, Brian, Eileen, Teddy, and Laura; his great-grandchild, River; a brother, Dr. Frank McCafferty. He is preceded in death by his siblings; and his parents.

Lee A. Stahl III
1941-2023



Lee A. Stahl III, 82, of Lakeside, Michigan passed away peacefully in his sleep on Wednesday, July 26, 2023 at Franciscan Health Care in Michigan City, IN.

Lee was born on April 6, 1941 in Chicago, IL to late Lee and Jacqueline Stahl Jr. He was the beloved husband of Susan Cornell Stahl of Lakeside; loving father of Kelly Lee Stahl and Wendy Lee Orsolini and their spouses, David Lamont and David Orsolini. He was adored by grandchildren, Nicole Lee Orsolini and Maximus Lee Orsolini, and survived by the mother of his children, Joyce Stahl.

Lee was COO and co-owner of Cook-Illinois Corporation — a school bus transportation company. He was a devoted husband and father, and he loved his family fiercely. He will be remembered for his sweet, kind, easy-going personality, and was a generous man with his money, his time, and his patience. Lee retired at 50 to pursue his passions of skiing and boating. He was happiest at the helm of his boat, the Susan Lee, with his wife Susie at his side. He is now "on his boat" waiting for his first mate to drop the last line.

A visitation with the family to celebrate Lee's life will take place on Friday, August 4th, from 4:00-8:00pm at Sommerfeld Chapel — 15 N. Barton St., New Buffalo, MI. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Chapel Haven Schleifer Center — www.chapelhaven.org, or mailed to Chapel Haven at 1040 Whalley Ave., New Haven, CT 06515 in honor of his grandson, Maximus Orsolini. Friends wishing to leave the family a message of condolence may do so at www.sommerfeldchapel.com.

Dick Dale Voorhees
1953-2023

Dick Dale Voorhees, 69, of Three Oaks, died, Sunday, July 23, 2023.

His life began December 30, 1953 in LaPorte, Indiana, the fourth of six children born to Isaac and Dixie Voorhees. He married Risa Ann Flood in New Buffalo, Michigan in 1986. After thirty-three years, she preceded him in death March 22, 2020.

Dick cherished his family, especially his grandchildren. His cats also meant a great deal to him. He loved being outdoors and was an avid fisherman. He also enjoyed gardening and certainly helped keep the population of Praying Mantis's alive in our area. Dick will be remembered for his sense of humor and practical jokes. He was a generous soul and always willing to donate his time and tools to help anyone in need. He gave the benefit of the doubt and never spoke ill of anyone. He was a hard worker but truly enjoyed his retirement. Dick and Risa instilled in their kids the value of working hard and doing things to the best of their abilities.

Dick will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his daughter, April Lewis of Sparta, Tennessee; four sons, Richard Lewis, Eric (Sarah) Lewis, both of Sparta, Tennessee, David (Amanda) Witter of Three Oaks, Timothy (Angela) Witter of Watsontown, Pennsylvania; ten grandchildren, Journee, Justice, Steven, Cody, Elijah, Annekah, Jayden, Levi, Trace, Trent; two great granddaughters, Lilly, Emma; three sisters, Edna (Robert) Litke of Florida, Dixie (Greg) Krueger of Hudson Lake, Melody Voorhees of LaPorte, Indiana; two brothers, Russell (Teresa) Voorhees of Townson, Montana, Victor (Rose) Voorhees of Florida; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his beloved wife.

Family and friends will gather in remembrance of Dick and Risa, Friday, August 4, 2023 from 1:00 p.m. until time of memorial service at 2:00 p.m. in Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, 106 Ash Street East, Three Oaks.

Dick and his wife will be laid to rest in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at www.wagnercares.com.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP
MEETING MINUTES SYNOPSIS
3/29/2023-7/17/2023

March 29th, 2023 Special Meeting
- Approve hiring Forest Galanda for full time Utility Worker @ $24.00 ph

April 17th, 2023 Regular Meeting
- Approve under the Consent Agenda-
  - minutes from 3/20/23, 03/29/23
  - treasurer's report & bills
  - Marina cleaning pay increase $50 off season, $100 in season
  - Friends of NBTFD Fired up 5K event Sept 23rd, 2023quote from Midwest Glass for two way communication at front windows $4,975
  - writing a grant to The Pokagon Fund for CPR Classes $1,050
  - quote from Country Lane for repairs & Maintenance to Marina Condo $4,425
  - invoice from The Edge for two printers $1,246.80
  - invoice from Four Winds Casino for Water $12,423
  - invoice from Co-Alliance $883.41
- Approve appointing the Supervisor as the Emergency Liaison to the Berrien Co So
- Approve the Marihuana Zoning Ordinance
- Approve the Marihuana Regulatory Ordinance
- Approve the Marihuana Overlay Map
- Approve the Marihuana Establishment Application Fee
- Approve the Marihuana Application
- Hire Monique Carpenter & Sam Donnelly as Seasonal Park Employees
- Approve a Special Event Fireworks Ordinance and Application
- Establish a Fireworks Permit Fee
- Authorize the Clerk to negotiate an Election Agreement with local communities and Berrien County regarding 9 days of early voting, on behalf of the Township.
- Hire Kaitlyn Poff as a Seasonal Employee to clean the UP Trailhead
- Approve quote from Kennedy Industries for Maudlin Road lift station
- Approve BCRD Agreement for Lakeshore, Glassman & Shedd Roads
- Accept resignation of Nick Jackson

May 11th, 2023 Special Meeting
- Approve Sewer Ordinance Amendment
- Approve Water & Sewer Extension on Community Hall Rd

May 15th, 2023 Regular Meeting
- Approved under the Consent Agenda
  - minutes from 04/17/23, 05/11/23
  - treasurer's report & bills
  - pay raise for Utility Billing Clerk $1 ph
  - Jack Rogers as Township Representative on the Medic 1 Board
  - Alex Keen as the alternate to the GRSD Sewer board
  - purchase two iPads for the Fire Department $3,069
  - Thermal Imaging Camera's for the Fire Department $7,450
  - Invoice from Severance Electric $4,500
  - Invoice from Abonmarche for Township's portion of their Park Plan done with NBARA's Park Plan $10,562.09
  - Invoice from KMI $120.85
  - Invoice from Berrien County Printing $7,450
- Approve request from Haberichter's on Community Hall Road to amend their PUD
- Hire Fire Fighter Brad Miller
- Approve Fireworks display application for Justin Pavolka

May 17th Special Meeting
- Hire Utility Worker Matt Harfert @ $24.00 ph
- Approve an Outdoor Assembly Permit for Fernwood Inc

June 19th, 2023 Regular Meeting
- Hold Public Hearing on 2023-2024 Budget
- Approved under the Consent Agenda
  - minutes from 05/15/23 & 05/17/23
  - treasurer's report & bills
  - update to employee handbook to increase meal reimbursement
  - ncrease weekly mowing payment to Country Lane Remodeling for Public Safety Building to $150
  - engagement letter from bonding counsel Miller Canfield for proposed water & sewer special assessment project at Exit 4 & US 12
  - invoice from Wightman in the amount of $11,992.50 for engineering services
- Approve 2022-2023 Budget Amendments
- Approve 2023-2024 Budget
- Approve wage increase of 4% for all full time employees, including Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, all Fire Fighters, Fire Inspector with exception to Building and Zoning Administrator, and Building and Zoning Assistant
- Approve Building Administrator salary increase 10%
- Approve Planning Commissioner Coordinator annual salary increased to $12,000
- Approve Building & Zoning Assistant hourly pay increased to $23 ph
- Approve Township Hall & Fire Station 1 & 2 cleaning wage increased to $25 ph
- Approve Township Board Officers salary increased to $54,000
- Approve to not collect previous PS Millage
- Approve to recognized Neighbor by Neighbor as a non profit
- Approve 3rd payment to the Deputy Foundation in the amount of $86,666.66
- Approve Water service inspection & Meter replacements to satisfy Lead & Copper Rule by EGLE for $180,750
- Approve an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission for the Marquette Greenway
- Approve Deputy Clerk wage at $20 ph
- Accept resignation of ZBA member Michelle Hannon who took the position of Deputy Clerk
- Approve Michigan Fire Equipment Grant Application
- Approve an Outdoor Assembly Application for Michiana Humane Society on July 29th, 2023

July 17th, 2023 Regular Meeting
- Held a Public Hearing on the Public Safety Special Assessment
- Approved under the Consent Agenda
  - minutes from June 19th, 2023
  - treasurer's report & bills
  - 4% pai increase for Julie Flick Marina Manager
  - hire Payton Lijewski as a non-certified firefighter
  - Emergency Vehicle Driver Training Instructor Level for firefighters Noah Sharum & Brad Miller, amount $120 total
  - Interview keyless entry card reader quote from Buist Electric for the Public Safety Building $2,378
  - Rope Rescue Operation Training for firefighter Noah Sharum, $900
- Approve application for a grant to The Pokagon Fund for $30,000 as a match for the MI Fire Equipment Grand for new turn out gear
- Appoint Building Department Inspectors; Bill Lambert as Building Official, Building Inspector & Plan Review; John Dobberteen, Inc & Bob Sommers as Mechanical & Electrical Inspectors; Chauncey Hackenberg as Electrical
- Payment of $60,000 to Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission for the townships local share of the RAISE Grant for the Marquette Greenway
- Hire Evan Spriggs for Seasonal Park Worker @ $15 ph
- Quit Claim Deed of a parcel back to Daniel & Carol Dominion

JUDITH H. ZABICKI,
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP CLERK

INDIANA MAN DECEASED AFTER MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT

An Indiana man has been declared deceased after a motorcycle accident in Weesaw Township in the early morning hours of Friday, July 28.

According to a press release made by Lieutenant Zizkovsky and Deputy Phillips, at approximately 12:27 a.m. July 28, deputies with the Berrien County Sheriff's Office responded to the area of West Elm Valley Road near Miller Road. in Weesaw Township for a single motorcycle traffic crash.

Upon their arrival, the motorcycle and operator were located in the ditch on West Elm Valley Road, which is east of the above intersection. The operator was identified as Jaime Daniel Brown, 47, of Granger, Indiana.

"The operator was not wearing a helmet at the time of the traffic crash. Life saving measures were taken on scene which were unsuccessful. The operator was subsequently declared deceased at the scene of the traffic crash," the release states.

Based upon initial investigation, speed and alcohol "appear to be a factor," the release said.

The traffic crash is still under investigation by the Berrien County Sheriff's Office and the Berrien County Sheriff's Office Accident Investigation Unit.

The Berrien County Sheriff's Office was assisted on scene by the Three Oaks Police Department, Michigan State Police, Weesaw Township Fire Department and Medic 1 Ambulance. — STAFF REPORTS

Charges in funeral home brawl

BY STAN MADDUX

Two people have been charged in connection with the firing of a gun during a large fight at a La Porte funeral home.

Alfredo Villano, 43, is charged in LaPorte Circuit Court with level 6 felony criminal recklessness with a deadly weapon.

Jaszmin Morris, 39, is charged with LaPorte Superior Court 3 with Class A misdemeanor battery.

According to court documents, police just after 10 a.m. on July 28 were dispatched to Frank Keisei Funeral Home Essling Chapel at 1117 Indiana Avenue.

A large number of people were there to pay their respects to a loved one.

According to court documents, the three women involved in the fighting had been carrying out a dispute on Facebook for several days.

Video surveillance provided by the funeral home shows Morris walking up to a large crowd and swinging her fists at the entrance to the building, according to court documents.

She then allegedly struck a woman in the face.

The victim bleeding heavily from the nose and mouth told police Morris then another woman kept hitting her in the face and head area.

Things escalated when some people trying to break up the fight landed some blows and others rushing over engaged in shoving and yelling, police said.

At one point, Villano in the funeral home parking lot pointed a gun in the air and fired one shot to try and break up the altercation, court documents revealed.

The crowd of 30 people or more began thinning out but still were engaged in a lot of yelling and finger pointing as police officers began arriving.

Villano of LaPorte and Morris of Michigan City have since posted bond.

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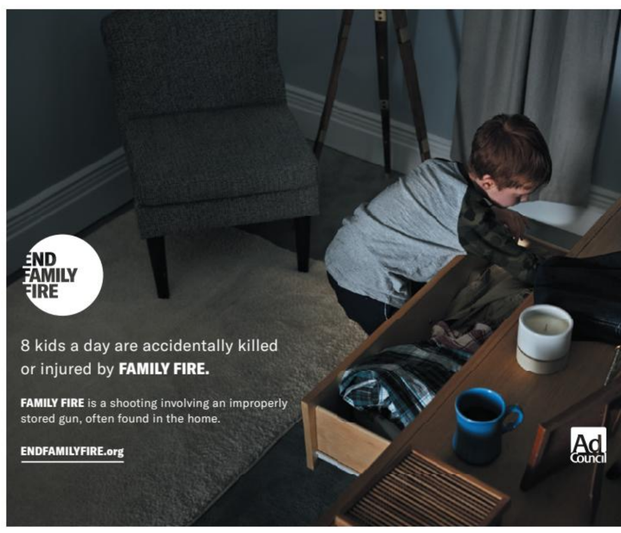
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A rendering of the future Schmidke Construction Home Building Office in Sawyer

Breaking ground on the future Schmidke Construction in Sawyer

Schmidke Construction and Contracting celebrates Sawyer location groundbreaking

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Josh Schmidke said he loved the space at 6291 Sawyer Road in Sawyer, which is the spot for the future Schmidke Construction and Contracting custom home building office, the moment he saw it – despite a realtor initially having doubts.

"When we found this place, we walked it and had some negative feedback and I said, 'This is great space, let's see what we can do with this place – it's huge, its wooded, it's gorgeous…' So we moved forward," he said, adding that the realtor told them it's an "amazing piece of property" after they'd cleared it.

Schmidke, who's the CEO of Schmidke Construction and Contracting, was celebrating the groundbreaking for the new space along with his wife, Breanne, who's CEO of Properti Home Concierge, and their three children, with members of the Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce Friday, July 28.

"The vision that we had for this place is hitting the next millstone for SCC – we've been in business for just over 20 years and been very blessed for what we've done, great clients, great partners, great team members – and this is the next step," he said.

Schmidke said they've outgrown their Baroda location, which has been there for 15 years.

The new wooded site is five and half acres and the new space will be about 8100 square foot of finished floor space "when all is said and done" (which includes first and second floor).

Per a press release, in addition to providing office space for the Schmidke Construction and Contracting (SCC) team, the building will feature a design library, meeting spaces, SCC's home management division- Properti Home Concierge, and dedicated rental office space for industry partners.

The facility will showcase an impressive array of materials in a lifestyle setting.

There will also be a place where clients can experiment with different textures, finishes, and colors to "touch, see and feel" what they'd like in their new home, Schmidke said. Meeting areas will ensure that clients can engage in confidential discussions about their projects.

Second-floor offices will house SCC custom home building operations along with its home management division, Properti Home Concierge. Like-minded professionals can collaborate on events in flexible office rentals that will be available.

Schmdke added that they also plan on hosting several events in the new space.

It's projected that the new space will be completed by summer of 2024.

Schmidke said that he hopes the area "gets a boost for what we'll be bringing with our building and our office."

"We're super excited about the ribbon cutting down the road next year for you guys to come back and see what we've done," he said.

According to the press release, Schmidke Construction is "a leading custom home building and remodeling company committed to delivering exceptional craftsmanship and unparalleled customer service. With decades of experience, their skilled team of professionals creates unique, timeless homes that reflect their client's vision and lifestyle."

To learn more about Schmidke Construction, contact their office at 269-983-2304 or email info@schmidkeconstruction.com. You can also visit their website at schmidkeconstruction.com.

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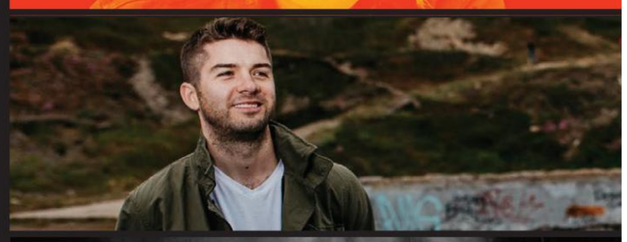

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Sunday, August 13
Street Legal Pickup Truck and Tractor Pull
6:00 pm

Ticket Price: $43, $33, $12

Thursday, August 17
Lee Greenwood with special guests The Riflemen
Presented by: Indiana Michigan Power - Cook Nuclear Plant
7:00 pm

Gate Admission

Ticket Price: $14, $12, $8

Monday, August 14
NTPA Regional Tractor Pull
Presented by: Co-Alliance
7:00 pm

Ticket Price: $13

Friday, August 18
Demolition Derby
8:00 pm

Day Passes:
Adult - $8
Child (5-12) - $5
65 & Over - $5
Military - $5

Season Passes:
Adult - $23
Child (5-12) - $12
65 & Over - $14
Military $14

Gates close at 10:00 pm daily

Ticket Price: FREE

Tuesday, August 15
Circus Continental
Presented by: Honor Credit Union
1:00, 4:00, 7:00 pm

Ticket Price: $12

Saturday, August 19
Bullmania
Presented by: Rural King
7:00 pm

Ticket Price: $53, $43, $17

Wednesday, August 16
Craig Morgan with special guests The Red Clay Strays
7:00 pm

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